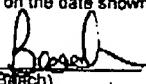


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (703) 872-9308, on the date shown below.

Dated: 1/30/04Signature: 

(Deborah A. Beach)

Docket No.: 21776-00039-US
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re Patent Application of:
Fumitaka Sugaya

Conf. No.

Application No.: 09/387,857

Group Art Unit: 2822

Filed: September 1, 1999

Examiner: C. L. Novacek

For: A SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND A
METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE
SAME**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

JAN 30 2004

OFFICIAL**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

MS AF
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 10, 2003 (Paper No. 20), finally rejecting claims 32-36, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page [redacted] of this paper.